

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Ozinga Tire Fire - Removal Polrep
Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region V

Subject: POLREP #2
Final
Ozinga Tire Fire

Chicago, IL
Latitude: 41.6811700 Longitude: -87.5553640

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From: Robert Kondreck & Tom Mendez, OSC
Date: 9/19/2018
Reporting Period: 9/16/2018 - 9/17/2018

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:
Response Authority:	Response Type: Emergency
Response Lead:	Incident Category:
NPL Status:	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date:	Start Date: 9/14/2018
Demob Date:	Completion Date: 9/17/2018
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification:
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #: E18523

1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response

1.1.2 Site Description

The Ozinga Tire Fire occurred on the Midwest Marine and Rail Terminals Property located at 11701 Torrence Avenue, Chicago, IL. The site is currently being used to store materials for later sale. Among the material is tire scrap (shredded) which caught on fire for unknown reasons. The largest of scrap tire pile measured close to 50-feet high and 100-feet wide before being knocked down by water used to suppress the fire. The total volume of tire scrap is unknown. The site is surrounded by industrial properties to the north and south. To the east the site is bordered by the Calumet River followed by industry. To the west is South Torrence Avenue followed by City of Chicago Park 565. There are a few residential houses to the northwest (0.3 miles), a residential neighborhood to the west (0.85 miles) and south (1 mile).

1.1.2.1 Location

The site is located at 11701 Torrence Ave, Chicago, Illinois.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Burned tire scrap breaks down into oil product among other constituents. The oil becomes mobile due to water used to suppress the tire fire and may travel via sewer drainage or over land flow to the closest water body. The nearby waterway is the Calumet River located 0.13 miles to the east.

Burned tire scrap may become a threat to air quality due to the release of PM10, PM2.5, benzene, carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide dioxide, among other hazardous chemicals.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

On September 14, 2018, EPA and START assessed the contact water from the tire fire and performed air quality

measurements on behalf of The City of Chicago. The runoff from the burning tire scraps contained a noticeable oil sheen and a distinct odor. Runoff migrated throughout the site and pooled in low-lying areas. Areas were diked leading to the Calumet River however some water was penetrating.

START performed air monitoring on 117th near the tire fire using an UltraRAE with benzene tubes. START also performed community air monitoring in residential areas on 9/14/18 located South Deering with results of non-detected for all constituents except VOCs which were 2.0 ppm (which may be attributed to sources not associated with the tire fire) and the East Side with results of non-detect for all constituents except VOCs which were 0.8 ppm (which may be attributed to equipment drift). On 9/15/18 START performed additional air monitoring with non-detect results for VOCs.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

For the reporting period from 9/16/18 @ 1600hrs to 9/17/2018 @ 1500 hrs:

Subcontractors Environmental Restoration (ER), Heritage Environmental, Illinois & Michigan Oil, and others conducted contaminated firefighting run-off water collection operations via trash pumps, submersible pumps and vac trucks from facility lots, drainage ditches, storm water drains, and frac tanks to chem barges. The chem barges are high capacity (approximately 300,000 gal), double-lined storage tanks contained by a conventional barge which can store and safely transport flammable liquids. The chem barges will be used to store and transport contaminated run-off water for treatment at a licensed facility. The water was first sampled before submitting the profile to potential treatment facilities located nearby.

ER maintained and monitored absorbent boom around surface drains, within drainage ditches, and at all three storm water outfalls to the Calumet River. Ozinga personnel maintained berms along pooled areas leading to Calumet River. The contaminated run-off water is no longer a threat to the Calumet River.

Ozinga completed breaking apart the tire scrap piles to provide managed areas and eliminated all remaining hot spots. Ozinga claims that all burned scrap tire material will be removed from the site as soon as possible in coordination with Liberty Tire.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

The City of Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) requested EPA assistance. With completion of air monitoring and contaminated water sampling/removal operations, CDPH released EPA from the site on 9/17/18 at 1500 hrs.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

Ozinga was issued a Notice of Federal Interest letter. Chicago Port Rail Road is the land owner. Ozinga is the operator at the facility. Ozinga has indicated that Liberty Tire owns the tire scraps and is in contact with their insurance company.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Manifest #	Treatment	Disposal
Contact Water (Frac Tank)	liquid	190,000 gal	None	WWTP	TBD
Contact Water (Barge Open Top)	liquid	25,000 gal	None	WWTP	TBD
Contact Water (Chem Barge)	liquid	600,000 gal	various	WWTP	TBD

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Ozinga will complete removal of all contact water from the site under oversight from CDPH. Ozinga will coordinate with tire chip owner Liberty Tire to remove the burned material from the site. Underlying soils will be sampled with oversight of CDPH.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

None unless requested by CDPH.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

None

2.2.2 Issues

None

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative

The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund was opened and funding was provided at \$25,000 under Federal Project Number E18523.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
TAT/START	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%

Intramural Costs				
USEPA - Direct	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
USEPA - InDirect	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total Site Costs	\$23,000.00	\$23,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
City of Chicago Department of Public Health
Chicago Fire Department

4. Personnel On Site

EPA - 1
CDPH - 1
Ozinga - 1
Oil Spill Response Contractors - 12

Total - 15

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

6.2 Reporting Schedule

No further reporting is anticipated.

7. Situational Reference Materials

Regional Metrics

Miles of river systems cleaned and/or restored	0
Cubic yards of contaminated sediments removed and/or capped	0
Gallons of oil/water recovered	815000 water

Acres of soil/sediment cleaned up in floodplains and riverbanks

Number of contaminated residential yards cleaned up	0
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Number of workers on site	15
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Oil, Benzene, VOC,PAH

This is an Integrated River Assessment. The numbers should overlap.

Contaminant(s) of Concern

Oil Response Tracking

Estimated volume	Initial amount released	0
	Final amount collected	0
CANAPS Info	FPN Ceiling Amount	40,000
	FPN Number	E18523
	Body of Water affected	Calumet River

Administrative and Logistical Factors (Place X where applicable)

Precedent-Setting HQ Consultations (e.g., fracking, asbestos)	Community challenges or high involvement	Radiological
X More than one PRP	Endangered Species Act / Essential Fish Habitat issues	Explosives
AOC	Historic preservation issues	Residential impacts
UAO	NPL site	Relocation
DOJ involved	Remote location	Drinking water impacted
Criminal Investigation Division involved	Extreme weather or abnormal field season	Environmental justice
Tribal consultation or coordination or other issues	Congressional involvement	X High media interest
Statutory Exemption for \$2 Million	Statutory Exemption for 1 Year	X Active fire present

Hazmat Entry Conducted – Level A, B or C

Incident or Unified Command
established X Actual air release (not
threatened)

CID confirms Criminal Charges Have Been Filed

Green Metrics

Metric	Amount	Units
Diesel Fuel Used		gallons
Unleaded Fuel Used		gallons
Alternative/E-85 Fuel Used		gallons
Electricity from electric company		kWh
Electric Company Name and Account #		
Electricity from sources other than the electric company		kWh
Solid waste reused		enter
Solid waste recycled		enter
Water Used		gallons

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